REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 12-28 will be pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment. Of these, claims 16-24 have been withdrawn from consideration as directed to non-elected subject matter.

The elected claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention to reduce issues and advance the examination of this application generally.

The definition of claims 4 and 5 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 28 and the fatty amide (only) which was included in claim 3 as well as the relevant amounts of same have been incorporated into claims 1 and 28 as well.

Both claims 14 and 15 have been amended to specify a minimum strength of not less than 150 g/15 mm and this is based upon the data of Example 1. Basis for the amendments to the claims will be apparent from the above discussion. As a consequence claims 3-5 have been canceled as being redundant.

Claim 12 has been reworded to place the anchor coat (when one is used) between the substrate (A) and inorganic film (B).

In the present invention, the polyester-based resin layer (C) formed by applying a coating material contains:

a polyester-based resin

a fatty amide in an amount of 0.1 to 20 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the polyester-based resin [part of claim 3], and

a polyisocyanate as a curing agent [claim 4] in a content of 0.8 to 1.5 times a hydroxyl equivalent of the polyester-based resin [claim 5].

By using the above coating layer containing the polyester-based resin, fatty amide and polyisocyanate in the amount specified in combination, even though the film is subjected to printing and retort treatments, it is possible to maintain excellent printability, in particular, gradation printability, while remaining free from deterioration in its gas-barrier property -- even when forming a printed layer thereon, and further exhibiting an excellent adhesion between a plastic substrate and an inorganic thin film.

Especially, in the gas-barrier laminate according to the present invention, the resistance to the solvents contained in printing ink is excellent. Therefore, printability such as its transferring property and gradation printability is excellent because the resin coating layer is not affected by the solvents contained in printing ink.

One of the inventors, Ms. Chiharu OKAWARA, conducted comparative experiments to show that the above technical advantages can be attained by the claimed combination of polyester-based resin, fatty amide and polyisocyanate. The results are reported in her declaration made February 21, 2011 and submitted herewith.

Having considered the amendments to the claims that make them more specific and the comparative data now of record the examiner is requested to carefully reconsider and withdraw the rejection stated in the current Official Action.

All outstanding issues have been addressed and this application is in condition for allowance. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner should contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Arthur R. Crawford/
Arthur R. Crawford
Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:eaw
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100